



Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 6

Editor: Ron Kiefert June 2014

May Meeting in Review

Date—May 26, 2014

Meeting called to order 7:35 pm

Speaker - **Ron Kiefert**

Topic— **Crotons for a South Florida Landscape**

Speaker - **Lamar Sapp**

Topic - **Fertilizers for South Florida, How its Made, Special Blends**

Ron's presentation covered techniques for container and landscape culture for the Crotons. Crotons have returned to popularity and are going through a Renaissance. The program closed with an array of different cultivar photos.

Lamar gave an intensive introspective on the use of fertilizer in our gardens and for commercial use. Lamar is recently retired after years of keeping the multi-million dollar golf courses throughout the South East looking their best with his expertise.

Meeting ended: 9:15 pm

A perfectly grown Medinilla in the shade house of Dr. Jeff Block.



Next Meeting, June 23 @ 7:30 pm

A panel comprised of **Dr. Jeff Block, Ellis Brown, Phil Iloo and Marie Nock**, who will speak on **The Amazing Medinilla**

Not a lot is known about **Medinillas**. Very little is published and online information is difficult to find. And yet this group of plants is growing in popularity. Some gardeners are successful with them and others see cherished plants decline and die. So we have put together a panel of individuals who have collected, grown, bloomed and propagated many varieties of **Medinillas** for several years. They will share what they have learned through trial and error that has led to their successful practices.

Marie of Ree Gardens will provide an overview of the genus **Medinilla** and general growing practices. Ellis of Redland Nursery will describe his growing practices and vegetative propagation. Phil of Stelmar Gardens will discuss practices to induce blooming and landscaping with **Medinillas**. Jeff of Block Botanical Gardens has been growing **Medinilla 'Gregori Hambali'** from seed and will describe the process he uses. There will be some **Medinillas** for sale after the presentation.

Refreshments will be served

Hope to see you there!

Annual Show and Sale

The Show was a bit of a challenge this year. The display we had used for many years had been retired—so an alternative was needed to show off our members fabulous specimen plants.

To construct a display similar to our old one would have been prohibitively expensive plus the issue of storage had to be considered. The collective weight of our members displayed plants exceeds several thousand pounds. To ensure the safety of our members and guests visiting our show, it was decided to use construction scaffolding as our frame. Then we dressed it up with 800 square feet of white lattice panel.

Giving the circumstances we were confronted with, this was the best solution at the time. I will be throwing the display issue on the floor at the next meeting. Its your Society and your input is important.

Volunteers

I cannot express my gratitude to all our volunteers enough. Without your contributions, there simply could be no show. Thank you very much for your dedication.

Special, Special Thanks!!!!

Construction of our display was quite the task. The twin tower design was nearly 11 feet tall and many hours on ladders were necessary. Without the strenuous assistance from **Mike O'Dea, Tom Moore and Shelia O'Dea**, our display would not have had its grandeur.

Special Thanks Continued ...

(Show and Sale continued on page 2)

The Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.

Officers for 2014

President

Ron Kiefert (305) 445-7228

Vice President

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Secretary

Craig Morell (305) 630-2711

Treasurer

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

Membership

Sherrin Smith (305) 213-2598

Hospitality

Martha Bogaards (305) 661-2305

Emaly Israel (305) 235-0886

Special Sales

Marie Nock (305) 232-2257

Raffle Table

Skye Palmer (305) 595-9291

Argeo Hernandez (305) 633-9099

Webmaster

Bob Benaim (305) 793-9755

Board of Directors will consist of the above officers and chairs; and the following individuals.

Steve Forman (305) 662-2368

Debbie Lamb (305) 251-8675

Marnie Valent (305) 233-5929

Reggie Whitehead (305) 613-5944

Trinity Churchside Garden

Stop by to support Penny at the Annex Restaurant

DAVID MCLEAN (In Memoriam)

14 S.W. 11 Street (954) 768-0423

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 Just west of South Andrews Avenue

The first Saturday of each month is a special day!

SHERRIN A. SMITH (Miami Native)

PLANT, PET, AND HOUSE SITTING; Personal Assistance

305 213-2598 Phone 305 668-4622 Fax

E-mail: sas56chevy@aol.com



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24" x 24" - \$ 20.00

Contact – Bob Benaim, 305-793-9755 or

staghornrescue@gmail.com

(Show and Sale continued from page 1)

Putting up the display is only half the job. **Mike & Shelia O'Dea** were at it again joined with **Bob & Valerie Holt**. Their stamina was amazing and stayed until the display was fully dismantled. Job well done,! My sincere appreciation to all of you cannot be expressed enough.

Judges and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Emaly Israel and **Martha Bogaards** did not disappoint with the wonderful spread of food and beverage we enjoyed. Thanks to all who donated their special homemade dishes and desserts. As usual, I ate too much.

Judges

Thanks to our Judges, **Martha Kent**, **Craig Morell** and **Lester Kallus**. Due to the height of our display—they spent some time on ladders judging some of the higher displayed specimens. Thanks to our Clerk's **Mike** and **Shelia O'Dea**. Keeping track of all the entries and awards was quite the task.

With much Sadness:

It is my unfortunate task to inform the members who were not aware of the passing of **David McLean**. A Lifetime Member of our Society whose contributions to the South Florida horticultural scene are simply to numerous to list. At Dave's last Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society meeting guest speaker presentation, I had arrived several hours as did Dave. We spent a wonderful few hours just talking about all kinds of plants. It was 25 years since I had the first opportunity to hear him speak. He still captivated me with his wealth of knowledge across a wide variety of plant families.

South Florida has lost a unique irreplaceable plantsman in David McLean. I am surely going to miss him.

Ron

President, TFEPS

Welcome to our New Members

George Sparkman *(Life Time) *
PO Box 1161
Fallbrook, CA 92088- 1161
Ph: 760-468-0554
E-mail: cycadpalms@aol.com

Richard M. & Helen Zwick
(Life Time)
264 Navajo Street
Miami Springs, FL 33166
Ph: 305-885-0580
Cell: 786-291-6771
E-mail: hvgutierrez@gmail.com

John & Delores Harshaw
22727 S.W. 127th Avenue
Miami, FL 33170
Ph: 786-718-7749
E-mail: johnharshawsr@yahoo.com

Robert van Haren
Schooneroom 3
Curacao
Ph:
E-mail: arti.rohava@yahoo.com

Raffle Table for May

June 23 Weeds & Things
..... Larry & Glenda Weed

Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society
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Homestead, FL 33090-2094

Individual Member \$15. Household Membership \$17.
 Life Membership \$125. Life Household Membership \$150.
(Yearly dues are for calendar year - January - December)

This is for a New Membership: or for Renewals:

Member's Name: _____

Name of additional member: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4: _____ + _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Out of Africa

By John Banta

About 20% of the earth's land surface is in Africa. The origin of the name "Africa" is rather obscure due to its antiquity. "Africa" may be derived from the Phoenician word "Afar" meaning, "dust". With Africa's remarkably rich natural resources it is not surprising that it's floral riches are equally vast. The beautiful and rare *Costus spectabile*, was only introduced into horticultural



ture within the last decade. The equally rare and beautiful African genus, *Siphonochilus*, deserves space in our gardens. These rare gingers go dormant November through April avoiding any need for Winter protection. I trust the following pictures will explain my passion for these wonderful gingers.



Next Meeting, The Amazing Medinilla. Presented by the panel of Dr. Jeff Block, Ellis Brown, Phil Iloo and Marie Nock, Monday June 23 at 7:30 pm, Monday, June 23, 7:30 p.m

*Tropical Fern & Exotic Plant Society, Inc.
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